

検

S N O C H I K U

"KICHIREI HARU NO TAIMEN"

(New Year's Meeting)

KABUKI PLAY

To be presented at Tokyo Theatre

In February, 1947

By Kikugoro and Koshire troupe

X X X X X X X X

(Kakimaru → Baiho
Kakuta → Uzaemon 16

C.O.D. J-2036



(The scene is that of ^Kudo-Suketsune's mansion.

A number of feudal lords are talking to each other. The curtain rises with the sound of Japanese orchestra.)

Lord 1: Now, gentlemen, Lord Suketsune, master of this mansion, is much loved by Lord Yoritomo.

Lord 2: And he has been appointed Lord Magistrate of the Fuji ~~ganes~~.

Lord 3: And he has invited us to partake of his joy.

Lord 4: Let us just flatter him ----.

Lord 5: And enjoy easy lives.

Lord 6: Let's be time-servers ----.

Lord 7: And be up-to-date.

Lord 8: Now time's up ----.

Lord 9: To sit at table.

Lord 10: Let's go and chatter.

All: All right.

Lord 1: Hush.

(Suketsune's voice, reciting a poem, is heard behind the sliding door.)

Suketsune: "The plum blossoms
are out in the garden
While the nightingales
sing sweetly."

Lord 1: Oh, that is ----.

All: Lord Suketsune.

Suketsune: Come, Omi and Yawata, open the door.

- Two: Certainly, my lord.
- (Music. Omi-Kotôta and Yawata-Saburo, both pages, come in and open the big door at the back. There appear Suketsune (in the middle) with Kajiwara-Kagetoki, his son Kagetaka, Kobayashi-Asahina (all warriors), Oiso-Tora and Keshozaka-Shosho (sweethearts of the Soga brothers))
- Suketsune: Today I, Suketsune, am to ~~xxxxx~~ congratulate myself on my new position.
- Asahina: I, Asahina, have the honour of partaking of his joy.
- Kagetoki: My son and I, of the Kajiwara family, have come here, too, dressed up.
- Kagetaka: This is the time of honour we have long waited for.
- Omi: Though I am so young, please don't scold me for being intrusive.
- Yawata: My suit, of the colour of khaki~~s~~, is the traditional suit for us pages.
- Tora: I am Tora of Oiso. Though a woman, I have been invited to join this honorable meeting.
- Shosho: And I, Shosho, am still as young as plum buds.
- Kagetoki: Well, let us congratulate -----.
- Kagetaka: Lord Suketsune.
- All: On his new position.
- Kagetaka: Just go and sit on the seat of honor, Lord Suketsune.
- Suketsune: That's too much of honour
- Kagetoki: Why on earth do you stand on such ceremony?
- Kagetaka: Now that you have been appointed First^S Lord.
- All: Proceed to the seat of honour, please.

Suketsune: Excuse me, then.

(Sits on the seat of honour.)

Asahina: Well, now, I've got something to ask of you, squire Suketsune. Will you see the two youths I've often talked of?

Suketsune: As you ask me ----.

Asahina: Will you?

Suketsune: Certainly.

Asahina: Shall I call them? (Calling) Come, young brothers, squire Suketsune is going to see you. Just hurry here.

Juro)
Goro): Certainly, sir.

(Juro and Goro appear into the stage passage.)

Kagetoki: Look, gentlemen, there have appeared two strange youths.

Kagetaka: They walk in a couple as if they were strolling comic-dancers.

Lord 1: Hatless.

Lord 2: With no fear at all.

Lord 3: It's very impertinent of them.

Lord 4: And they look cold ----.

Lord 5: And poor, too.

Lord 6: Look; they tremble.

Lord 7: Don't they look ----.

Lord 8: Miserable?

Kagetaka: Well, father, shall we laugh on them?

Kagetoki: All right.

All: (Laugh)

Asahina: Shut up, folks. I have introduced the young brothers to ~~the~~ 'squire Suketsune.

Tora: They are to accomplish their wish through the good offices of ~~the~~ 'squire Asahina. It's very heartless of them ----.

Shoshe: To be so fancy-free.

Tora):

Shoshe): Be a little more careful, please.

Suketsune: Ah, those are the brothers I've heard much of come here, young men.

Asahina: Do you hear, young men? Come and hurry here: 'squire Suketsune is going to see you.

Goro: Oh, we're coming.

Juro: Oh, don't be so harsh.

Joro: All right; never worry.

(The two come into the main stage.)

Lords: There they come.

Suketsune: Oh, the young brothers that Asahina has introduced to me ---- they look like somebody.

Juro: Look like ----.

Juro):

Goro): Whom?

Suketsune: Kawazu-no-Saburo-Sukeyasu, who was related to me.

Juro):

Goro): Why!

Suketsune: Well, well. It was in November, some ten years ago, that I joined the game of young lords held to comfort Lord Yoritomo.

Juro: Sukeyasu, knowing nothing of the concealed enemy,
came strolling on horse-back.

Suketsune: And he was attired in a gaming-suit ----.

Juro: With a bow and sedge hat.

Goro: And he rode calmly and sedately.

Oni: The ambushes, on the other hand, -----.

Yawata: As they struck one, two of the arrows, -----.

Suketsune: His horse fell down.

Goro: And Sukeyasu, though so strong, -----.

Juro: Fell flat and breathed his last.

Suketsune: And you two look so like him -----. Don't you happen
to -----?

Juro: Now that you have noticed the resemblance, I'll tell you
that we're his sons.

Suketsune: Oh, are you the elder brother Ichinan grown up ----?

Juro: Now called Soga-no-Juro-Sukenari.

Suketsune: And are you little Makoo ----?

Goro: Now called Soga-no-Goro-Tekichika.

Suketsune: Young men -----.

Juro):
Goro): Esquire Suketsune -----.

Suketsune: What a chance.

Juro):
Goro): To meet you!
Suketsune):

Goro: Prepare for death, Suketsune. (About to challenge.)

Juro (Checking Goro): Don't be so reckless, Goro.
Be very careful leave it entirely to me.

Goro: But ---.

Juro: Be patient.

Goro: I can't put up with it any more.

Asahina: Don't be so hasty, Goro. Just listen to me and

wait a moment I'll be much obliged.

Suketsune: It's an obvious fact.

Suketsune: It's an obvious fact that Matano killed Kawazu, resenting him for having been defeated in a wrestling tournament. I, Suketsune, just came to receive his territory as a prize for the service I did in a battle. I'm never to blame.

Goro: It's very cowardly of you to say so.

Asahina: Certainly it is.

Omi: It's impertinent of you to say such things/ to my lord.

Yavata: He is the First Lord, you know. As you are related to him, -----.

Lord 1: You may get some of his favour.

Lord 2: Remember this: ----.

Lord 3: "Flatter to the strong".

Lord 4: And is you insist on being as impertinent as this ----.

Omi: There are, before my lord, Omi-no-Koteta ---1

Yavata: And Yavata-no-Saburo ----.

Omi):
Yavata): Never to let you behave so much at ease.

Suketsune: Shut up, pages. The two lads are nearly related to me. Moreover, they have been newly introduced to me by Asahina, you know.

Omi):
Yavata): All right, my lord.

Asahina: It may be too much, 'squire Suketsune, but will you, at this beginning of the year, ----.

Tora: Just give your cup ----.

Shosho: To these two young gentlemen?

Suketsune: With pleasure. Wine bottles and cups, pages.

Omi:)
Yawata:

Certainly, my lord.

(Music. The two pages bring wine both ^{the} and cups, and pour for Suketsune. Suketsune drinks, and then -----)

Suke.: As Sukenari is the elder of the two, I'll give my cup first to you.

Juro: I'll receive it with many thanks.

(Juro drinks. Suketsune drinks again and then -e---)

Suke.: Come, Goro.

Goro: What for?

Suke.: I'll give you my cup.

Goro: Thanks.

Juro: Don't be reckless, Goro.

Goro: All right. (Approaching Suketsune.) This is the day I have long waited for. I have longed and longed to have an interview with you.

Suke.: You're so bold. Do you feel mortified to have been robbed of your territory?

Goro: Certainly.

Suke.: Much mortified?

Goro: Certainly.

Suke.: Naturally, naturally. However, I can't return it to you as Lord Yoritomo has given it to me together with my new position.

Goro: Confound it.

Suke.: Moreover, I have lost the treasure sword Tomokirimaru, which my lord has entrusted

with me. I am almost his prisoner unless and untill it is found out.

Juro: Why, do you say that unless and untill the sword is found, -----.

Goro: Our wish -----.

Suke.: Cannot be carried out.

Onio: (appearing into the stage passage with the sword in his hand) Just a minute; just a minute, please. The lost sword Tomokirimaru has been found, gentlemen.

Asahina: Why, Tomokirimaru -----.

All: Has been found, you say?

Onio: I! ⁿOio-Shinzaemon, a vassal to the Soga family, has just brought it here.

Asa.: It's admirable of you, Onio, Hurry here.

Onio: Yes, sir. (Coming into the main stage.)
Examine it please, Lord Suketsune.

(The page Yawata takes the sword and hands it to Suketsune.)

Suke.: It is Tomokirimaru.

Juro: Now that you've regained it -----.

Goro: Give our fief back to us.

Suke.: This is not a chance. Wait a little more.

Goro: You coward!

Suke.: No, I'm not being cowardly. No private affairs can be taken into consideration untill I have finished my service in the April game round Fuji.

Juro: Do you say that untill you have finished -----.

Onio: Your service in the game -----.

Goro: We cannot accomplish our wish even though we're quite near it? My dear brother -----.

Juro: Dear Goro -----.

Goro, Juro: How mortifying!

Suke.: Oh, don't be so much discouraged. I'm going to give you something as New Year's gift.

(Gives the brothers the passport of the game-ground.)

Juro: Why, this is the passport -----.

Juro, Goro: Of the game-ground.

Suke.: It's for the bill to show that I promise you to give your fiefs back to you. Use it well, young men.

Juro:)
Goro:) You needn't mention it.

Asa.: Untill then -----.

Suke.: Well, Sukenari and Tokichika -----.

Juro, Goro: Esquire Kudo-Saemon-Suke-tsune -----.

Suke.: Untill we meet again -----.

Juro:)
Goro:) Fare you well.
Suke.:)

(The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers when the lords pose in a row.)

- - - - -